

TRANSFERRING 600 ACRES OF PUBLIC DOMAIN TO THE KANOSH BAND OF INDIANS, UTAH

JUNE 4, 1956.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State
of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. ENGLE, from the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 9828]

The Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 9828) to transfer 600 acres of public domain to the Kanosh Band of Indians, Utah, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

EXPLANATION OF THE BILL

H. R. 9828, introduced by Congressman Dixon, has as its purpose authorizing the transfer of 600 acres of public domain land in Utah to the Kanosh Band of Indians, Utah.

If enacted, H. R. 9828 will transfer 600 acres of public land to the 42 enrolled members of the Kanosh Band of the Paiute Indian Tribe. The acreage involved is located within the boundaries of the Kanosh Reservation, which embraces the total Indian-owned land, 1,840 acres of which is allotted, with 5,890 acres in tribal ownership; the tract involved is almost entirely surrounded by Indian-owned lands. Until recently, the tribe believed that they owned the 600 acres, but it has now been determined that by error or inadvertence this block of land had never been conveyed to them.

The transfer of the lands involved to non-Indians, the committee notes, would give rise to serious trespass problems since there are no fences between the Indian lands and the public domain, and the construction of fences would decrease the value of both categories of land since their use is limited almost exclusively to grazing.

The Kanosh Band of Paiutes is one of the tribes for which termination of Federal supervision was provided during the 83d Congress. In accordance with the provisions of the act of September 1, 1954 (68 Stat. 1099), all Federal supervision over tribal affairs will be with-

drawn on September 1, 1956. The enactment of H. R. 9828 will place the Indians in a more favorable position to accomplish their responsibilities under the act of September 1, 1954, and will avoid the creation of an unnecessary problem for the community in which the Indians live.

The favorable report of the Department of the Interior and the Bureau of the Budget dated March 30 and April 4, 1956, respectively, are as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D. C., March 30, 1956.

HON. CLAIR ENGLE,
*Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington 25, D. C.*

MY DEAR MR. ENGLE: Your committee has requested a report on H. R. 9828, a bill to transfer 600 acres of public domain to the Kanosh Band of Indians, Utah.

We recommend that the bill be enacted.

The bill transfers to the Kanosh Band of the Paiute Indian Tribe in Utah 600 acres of public domain which are inside the boundaries of the Kanosh Reservation and are almost entirely surrounded by the tribal and allotted lands of the Indians. The land has been used by the Indians for many years. The Indian-owned lands are meager (1,840 acres allotted and 5,890 acres tribal for a total membership of 42 persons), and the Indians would be seriously handicapped if they were deprived of the public domain within the reservation which they have been using. If the public domain were allowed to go into non-Indian use, serious trespass problems would arise because there are no fences between the Indian lands and the public domain, and the construction of fences would decrease the value of both categories of land.

All Federal supervision over the affairs of the Kanosh Indians will be terminated by September 1, 1956, in accordance with the provisions of the act of September 1, 1954 (68 Stat. 1099). The enactment of the bill will place the Indians in a more favorable position to carry out their responsibilities under the terminal legislation and will avoid the creation of an unnecessary problem for the community in which the Indians live.

The Bureau of the Budget has advised us that there is no objection to the submission of this report.

Sincerely yours,

WESLEY A. D'EWART,
Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT,
BUREAU OF THE BUDGET,
Washington, D. C., April 4, 1956.

HON. CLAIR ENGLE,
*Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.*

MY DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Reference is made to your request for our views concerning H. R. 9828, to transfer 600 acres of public domain to the Kanosh Band of Indians, Utah.

This legislation has been proposed by the Department of the Interior as a step incidental to the termination of Federal supervision of the Kanosh Indians, as authorized by the act of September 1, 1954. For many years the public-domain land involved in the bill, which lies within the exterior boundaries of the Kanosh Reservation and which is almost completely surrounded by tribal lands, has been used by the Indians primarily for grazing purposes.

Enactment of the bill is recommended.

Sincerely yours,

ROBERT E. MERRIAM,
Assistant to the Director

The Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs recommends enactment of H. R. 9828.

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The Commission has been proposed by the Department of the Interior as a body to be established to the formation of Federal reservations of the Indian Territory as authorized by the act of September 16, 1906. The Commission is authorized to acquire land in the Indian Territory and to transfer the same to the Indian Territory as authorized by the act of September 16, 1906. The Commission is authorized to acquire land in the Indian Territory and to transfer the same to the Indian Territory as authorized by the act of September 16, 1906.

Respectfully,
 Wm. H. R. 1908.
 The Committee on Indian and Insular Affairs recommends that
 be referred to the Senate.

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